

Power lines

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Burying the wires would cost \$100,000

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DUXBURY — A plan to avoid stringing electrical wires through an historic section of town would cost taxpayers an estimated \$100,000. In an unusual early morning meeting, Duxbury selectmen met Tuesday with ComElectric officials on a plan to bring an alternative source of electricity to town.

Selectmen want to provide alternate power to critical areas of town, including town offices, the fire and police departments. Right now the town has no alternate source of electricity if power is knocked out by a storm, which happens frequently.

But the Duxbury Rural & Historical Society objects to wires being strung over historic Boomer Square. Society representatives agreed to a plan which would extend overhead wires along Tremont Street as far as the Benjamin Smith tomb and Boomer Square. From that point to across Boomer Square, the wires would have to be underground and not overhead, they said.

The plan would minimize the amount of digging necessary to bury the lines, which will have to be paid for by the town. Preliminary estimates place the cost at

between \$100,000 and \$110,000.

Jim Noonan, a representative of ComElectric's planning department, said the secondary source is helpful during outages. Noonan said recent storms that knocked out power to the fire station and town offices could have been restored sooner if a loop had existed.

The present power supply lines, one from Kingston and one from Marshfield, terminate a few hundred feet from each other on Tremont Street. Selectmen have determined a link is necessary.

Work was begun two years ago and halted when the historical society objected to wires being strung over historic Boomer Square. The present plan minimizes the section of underground wiring necessary and satisfies concerns for preserving the historic nature of Boomer Square and the lands surrounding the cemetery, church and town offices. Boomer Square is on land originally called "town square" and was the site of a memorial for Charles Boomer, and other Duxbury residents who died in World War I. The society objected to alternate plans that would encroach upon the woodland they own opposite the Mayflower Cemetery by easements cutting into the woods.